



DAVID GERAGHTY
TO GET AN SMS FROM THE PM'

ered approach. "We don't make apologies for going after bad guys when we need to, but we never do that because of people's back-

round," he told ABC. "We've got to constantly reinforce to the Muslim community that they are very welcome in Australia, they're a very important part of our society and we want to work with them."

The change in tone comes amid renewed activity on the far Right,

where several new and existing parties are planning to contest the election on an anti-Islam platform.

Dutch politician Geert Wilders, one of Europe's most prominent anti-Islamic campaigners, will visit Perth later this month to launch the Australian Liberty Alliance, a party that opposes the "Islamisation" of Australia.

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dent Waseem Razvi, the workshops, to be held at Deakin's Burwood campus, promise to use the teachings of Dr Naik and Sheikh Deedat to help attendees "learn the art and gain the confidence to talk about Islam to anyone, anywhere and at any time."

In Islamic theology, the purpose of da'wah is to invite Muslims and non-Muslims to understand the worship of Allah.

Indian "televangelist" Dr Naik has been banned from countries including Britain, Canada and parts of India for his rhetorical support for terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

He has recommended capital punishment for homosexuals and apostates and has been quoted saying "every Muslim should be a terrorist" and asserting men's "rights" to beat their wives, as long as they do it lightly, so as not to leave a mark.

Sheik Deedat, who died in 2005, was a South African Muslim missionary of Indian descent whose books have been banned from sale in France since 1994 for

exclusivism intended to encourage people to view others in a way that is disrespectful or hateful."

Chair in Global Islamic Politics at Deakin Greg Barton said he agreed with the university's decision, but provisos were certainly necessary.

"When it comes to Zakir Naik, there are reasons to be concerned," Professor Barton said. "The questions around this event will be who is speaking and what line they take.

"In Australia at the moment we face a very serious struggle with violent extremist being recruited from our suburbs, and even from our tertiary institutions, and we have to be wise about how we engage. If we simply close the doors on everything, that can support the extremists rhetoric.

Neither Mr Razvi nor the Islamic academy's spokeswoman returned calls from *The Weekend Australian* yesterday.

Federal backing for cull of seals eating fish stocks

MICHAEL OWEN
ADELWAIDE BUREAU CHIEF

A cull of long-nosed fur seals that have invaded the Coorong and Lower Lakes region, damaging fishing stocks and distressing traditional landowners as the seals attack totems, has been backed by the federal government.

Environment Minister Greg Hunt and South Australian federal Liberal MP Tony Pasin said yesterday the seals were not protected.

Mr Pasin said while it had been thought the species was protected under the commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and the South Australian National Park and Wildlife Act, inquiries showed there were no federal legislative hurdles as the area lay outside commonwealth waters.

"The fact that we can now confirm that federal legislation holds no obstacle ... means that it's time for the state government to step up and take action," he said.

State Environment Minister Ian Hunter said yesterday South Australia would not change its opposition to culling. "The state government's position is informed by the best available science, which indicates culling

would be ineffective and would fail to address the impacts being felt by commercial fishers."

The *Australian* has reported since July on calls for a humane cull of the booming fur seal population, with more than 200 seals wreaking havoc on native animals and fish stocks. The fur seal population in South Australia has increased to more than 100,000.

Gary Hera-Singh, president of the Southern Fishermen's Association, has said the seals chewed through more than 500 tonnes of fish a day in the state, and the industry was set to go bust within 18 months unless the government allowed a cull.

Yesterday in the Lower Lakes town of Meningie, Mr Pasin met the association and Ngarrindjeri elder Darrell Sumner who, as reported by *The Australian*, faces up to \$100,000 in fines or two years' jail for killing at least four seals by clubbing them to death or chopping them with his boat propeller.

"This isn't only an economic and ecological issue for our local community but a deep cultural one as well. A broad spectrum of the local community is calling for a sustainable harvest," Mr Pasin said.

The South Australian government plans to spend \$100,000 on a trial of non-lethal deterrents.

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